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Cyfeillion Murluniau Brenda Chamberlain ar Enlli The Friends of the Brenda Chamberlain Bardsey Murals

Newsletter October 2011

It was in March 2011 that we launched an appeal to conserve Brenda Chamberlain's four remaining murals on the walls of Carreg. She, herself, explained her motives in the April 1959 issue of *House and Gardens*. "Most of the walls have been drawn on, not primarily to decorate them, but because it's good to throw off the convention of easel painting and to let charcoal or red ochre describe a life-sized horse, a big-eyed monkey, the towers of a cathedral...."

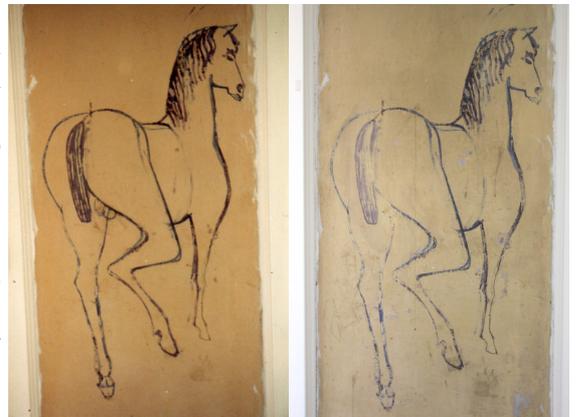


The pledges and gifts to our appeal now stand at £4060 which with the addition of Gift Aid, where it is applicable, could amount to £5075. In addition, by selling books, plants, postcards, pamphlets, CDs, glass tiles with illustrations from Brenda's book, *Tide Race*, and by giving illustrated talks we have raised a further £1000. This paid for the initial report that told us the decay could be stopped

(and outlined procedures for their conservation), and for two other conservators to visit Bardsey and quote for the work. No work done on Bardsey ever comes cheaply.

We consulted with mural experts associated with the National Trust and the National History Museum at St Fagans and both agreed that Jane Foley's team, from Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan, near Builth Wells, using traditional methods, was most suited to our needs.

During this time The Bardsey Island Trust was producing its Five Year Plan and it seemed sensible to them to take us under its wing. Their latest thinking is that they will apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to re-roof and re-face Carreg making it water proof and sealed against the destroying damp. This damp concerned all three of our conservators. Our mural conservation will also come under this project.



The timetable for this is a little uncertain but the Trust has already engaged Jane Foley to go over and face the most unstable mural with fibrous Japanese tissue which will stop any further decline and preserve it until the full conservation takes place.

The "Brenda Chamberlain Carreg Murals" fund is still open for donations or promises, for if we are successful in obtaining a grant from HLF we will need matching funds as part of the project.

We are grateful to all our sponsors, pledgers and supporters and hope that you will all be pleased with the progress that we are making. We are no longer working with just the Trust's approval but hand in glove with them, with their full backing.